

A Review of Dr. Boisduval's "Monographie des Agaristidées,"
published in the "*Revue et Magasin de Zoologie*," 1874,
pp. 26—110: by W. F. KIRBY, Assistant in the
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The arrangement adopted by M. Boisduval in the present paper is as follows: Uranides (Urania), Cydimonides (Cydimon), Nyctalemonides (Nyctalemon), Cocytides (Cocytia), Agaristides (Hecatesia, Ægocera, Charilina, Eudryas, Alypia, Amazela, Agarista, Eusemia, Phagorista, and Egybolis).

Perhaps the most striking point in this arrangement, is the absence of the genera *Mania* and *Larunda*, Hübn., (*Sematura* and *Coronis*, Auct), the former of which has been placed by all authors close to *Nyctalemon*, and at times even included in the genus. But we will take M. Boisduval's genera one by one as they stand.

GENUS URANIA. (*Chrysidia*, Hübn.)

As the Fabrician types (quoted by Boisduval himself in his *Species Général*, p. 79), are *Leilus* and *Petroclus*, it is difficult to understand why both Boisduval and Guénee select *Rhipheus*, ~~Cram.~~, which they agree in placing in a different family from *Leilus*, as the type. Boisduval now regards Drury's insect as a second species of this genus, to which the head of a *Papilio* had been attached. This species he renames *Druryi*, regardless of Drury's *Rhipheus* having nine year's priority over ~~Cramer's~~. If Hübner's name *Riphearia* be considered inadmissible for the latter, we have *Madagascariensis* Lesson, *Iromethus*, Drapiez or *Orientalis*, Swains, to choose from. Boisduval copies Sganzin's account of the transformations of the common Mascarene species, and mentions a second species said to occur at Sainte Marie, which he supposes to be a variety; but takes no notice of *Cræsus*, Gerst.

GENUS CYDIMON. (*Urania*, L.)

Boisduval maintains the distinctness of his *Amphielus* (*Amphidilus*), Guén.) considered by the latter as a variety of *Leilus*.

GENUS NYCTALEMON. (*Alcides & Lyssa*, Hübn.)

The only species of *Alcides* described by Boisduval are *Orontes*, and *Metaurus*. *Argyris*, Gmel. seems to be synonymous with the true *Orontes*, *Cydneus* and *Iris*, Feld. and *Zodiaca*, Butl. are probably good species, and deserve notice. Three species of *Lyssa* are described: *Patroclus*, *Cramerii*, and *Menatius*. The second species did not require a new name, as, if it is necessary to reject Hübner's name *Patroclaria*, *Zampa*, Butl. has several year's priority. *Menatius*, Hopff. is probably the same as *Hector*, Walk., both published in 1856, and the latter not noticed by Boisduval. *Longicaudus*, Schaufuss, is another unnoticed species, but only known to me at present by name.

GENUS COCYTIA.

GENUS HECATESIA.

GENUS EGOCERA.

Ten species described; and Dalman's (?) *Amalthea*, noticed. *Æ. Manas*, H. S. is probably identical with *Metagorista Triphaenoides*, Walk., although Herrich Schäffer, (perhaps merely by a printer's error) refers to the latter species under his *Phagorista leucomelas*, in which Boisduval has followed him. Several species in *Ægocera* and other genera have been described from Felder's work on the Lepidoptera of the Novara, which, although it has long been privately circulated among Entomologists, has only quite recently been published. Private circulation, however general, cannot be considered equivalent to publication, and these species will therefore stand as Boisduval's. Three species of *Ægocera* unnoticed by Boisduval, are known to me by description, viz. *limbata*, Möschl, *postica*, Walk., and *Triphaenoides*, Wallengr. The last species may possibly prove to be identical with *Fervida*, Walk.

GENUS CHARILINA.

This genus is Walker's, and Boisduval is in error in attributing it to Felder. He places in it *Amabilis*, Drury (Walker's type; which Walker refers to the *Lithosidæ*, placing it near *Deiopeia*); and *decora*, Linn., (the type of *Pais*, Hübn, Walk., placed by the latter in his *Castniidæ*). If the two species are to be united in one genus, the name *Pais* must of course be retained; as even if we concede to Boisduval that Hübner's names count for nothing, *Pais* is yet used by Walker in an earlier volume to *Charilina*. *Pais Pulchra*, Trimen, overlooked by Boisduval, is probably allied to *Amabilis*.

GENUS EUDRYAS.

Three species admitted, *Unio*, *Assimilis*,* (Doubl. MS.) and *Bartholomæi*. The second species seems to be nothing more than the well-known *E. grata*, Fabr., the last is possibly new, as it is distinct from *Brevipennis*, Stretch, Boisduval is unacquainted both with this species and *E. Sanctæ Johannis*, Walk.

GENUS ALYPIA.

Nine species admitted, four of which Boisduval claims as his own, unaware that Grote and Robinson described and figured them the year before the publication of his *Lépidoptères de la Californie*. *Similis*, *Brannani* and *Lipata* of Stretch, and *Langtonii* of Couper are all unknown to Boisduval except *Similis*, which he redescribes as new under the name of *Edwardsii*. *Bimaculata*, H.S. (of which *Eusemia* (?) *Crescens*, Walk., is probably a var.), is renamed *Trimaculata*. (It is an open question whether such a correction is allowable). *A. Grotei* of Boisduval does not appear to be distinct from this species.

* Grote has published some remarks on this paper, relating to this species, *Alypia* 8-maculata, and *Urania Rhipheus*, in the Canadian Entomologist, vol. vi. p. 180.

GENUS AMAZELA. (*Apina*, Walk.)

The first species of this "new" genus *A. Calisto*, Boisd., is *Apina Callisto*, Walk., who describes two other species *Feisthamelii*, subsequently referred to *Agarista*, and *Angasii* also from Van Diemen's Land and Australia. Boisduval's second species, *Echione* from S. Africa, may be new; but the locality renders it improbable that it should belong to the same genus.

GENUS AGARISTA. (*Phalaenoides* Lewin.)

Twenty-one species admitted (exclusive of *Megisto*, afterwards placed with doubt in *Eusemia*), some new. As Boisduval's knowledge of everything published up to within the last fifteen or twenty years is better than that of most other authors, and little has been published lately on this genus, he has only overlooked three species *Casuarinæ*, Scott, *Micacca* & *Hesperoides*, Walk., (C. L. H. vii p. 1772). The two latter species probably do not belong to this genus, and have also been overlooked by Walker himself, who has described a second species of *Agarista* under the name of *Micacca*, (C. L. H. xxxi p. 48). I therefore propose the name of *Phalaenoides Ceramensis* for the latter species. *Noct. Bambucina*, Esch., should have been quoted under *Lyncea*, Cram.

GENUS EUSEMIA.

Forty-nine species described, two doubtful as belonging to the genus; and three others are referred to by Boisduval as unknown to him. He describes several species as new, but has overlooked Walker's *E. Terminatus*, *Connexa*, *Mollis*, *Bijugata*, *Chrysospila*, *Butleri* and *Pardalina*, and Moore's *Funebris* and *Albimarginata*. It is almost certain that some of his supposed new species will prove to be synonymous with some of these; but in so large a genus it would be hazardous to venture an opinion on their identity, from comparison of description only. Boisduval's *Flavociliata* is however very close to Moore's *Albimarginata*, chiefly differing in the colour of the border.

GENUS PHÆGORISTA.

Boisduval admits two species, *Agaristoides*, Boisd., and *Leucomelas*, H. S. (The latter is *Egocera Mænas*, Walk. nec. H. S.) To this genus we may add *Bala*, Moore, *Catocalina*, Walk., and *Transiens*, Walk., (= *Catocaloides*, Walk.). The last species, originally described by Walker as a *Eusemia*, is one of those mentioned by Boisduval under that genus as unknown to him.

GENUS EGYBOLIS.

Boisduval thinks that his *E. Natalii* may be distinct from *Vaillantina*, Stoll. Lastly, he adds that a damaged specimen from California, formerly described by him as *Agarista guttata*, proves to be a *Callimorpha* allied to *Dominula* & *Hera*.

It is scarcely probable that we have succeeded in indicating all the gaps in this paper, which in spite of its deficiencies, will be very useful to those who are working at the groups of which it treats. It is only to be regretted that Dr. Boisduval should have omitted to consult the English, German, and American bibliographical works, which must be accessible in the Paris libraries, and an acquaintance with which would have greatly increased the value of his work; and our chief object in the present notice is to indicate to any Entomologist who uses the paper the amount of additional matter which it is necessary for him to consult. (No notice has been taken, however, of the allied genera published by Walker and others; but only of those mentioned by Boisduval, as the bounds of the *Agaristidæ* are still very uncertain.)